

LIPE'S PLAYERS ARRIVE IN TOWN

Riggs, Strader and Revelle Dropped in Yesterday, and Others Expected To-Day.

Three of Richmond's players reported yesterday for duty—Riggs, of Atlanta, and Strader, outfielders, and Pitcher "Dutch" Revelle, of Portsmouth. The three seem to be in perfect trim, and are looking forward to their first opportunity to toss ball in the season of 1908. Most of the other players are expected to report to-day, and the rest will be in before the middle of the week.

Manager Lipe will take his men out for their initial practice at 10 o'clock this morning, if the weather permits. No afternoon practice will be held, as the park is to be given up to the medical college team.

Umpires Mace and Westervelt are also in town, and will be ready to handle the indicator in the first game, Saturday afternoon, against the strong team of Richmond College. Thereafter the games will come thick and fast until April 16th, when and on the next day, the team will have only signal practice. The season will open on the 18th, with Roanoke.

Charlie Shaffer expects to do things when he comes to Richmond, as the first game should be an exciting and warmly contested as any of the season.

Sporting Letters

The sporting editor of The Times-Dispatch will gladly answer in these columns any questions regarding sporting matters. Communications on sporting subjects will also be printed, and comments will be made. Address Sporting Editor, Times-Dispatch.

Sporting Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—Sir—Will you please answer the following questions?

1. What batting averages of Riggs, Strader and Morgan? Also their fielding averages?

2. Kindly print the record of Baxter Sparks, pitcher?

3. At what hours during the day do the players practice?

A LOYAL FAN.
1. Riggs played last year in various clubs, but was in bad form. His record the year before was: Batting, .329; fielding, .925. Strader was in professional ball last year, but managed a team in his home city, Lexington, Ky., and had no record of him was kept. Morgan played in a semi-professional league last year, and hit over the .300 mark. His fielding record was not kept, but he led the team in runs and stolen bases.
2. Sparks batted last year .268 and fielded .920.

BASEBALL GAMES AT CHAPEL HILL

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., March 22.—The first ball game of the season at the university was played on the new tennis grounds Saturday afternoon, when the juniors defeated the freshmen by the score of 15 to 13. The game from beginning to end was characterized by errors on the part of both teams. This was accounted for to a large extent by the rough condition of the ground.

At first it looked like a walkover for the freshmen, for they scored twelve runs in the first inning and kept the lead till the eighth. But the tide was turned in the fifth, when Thomas knocked a home run with the bases full. Thereafter the juniors gained steadily, till they passed the freshmen in the eighth.

Batteries: Gaddy and Misenheimer; Thomas, Belk; Withington and Long; Umpire, Matthews.
Yesterday afternoon the seniors defeated the sophomores by the score of 16 to 9. As in Saturday's game the rough condition of the field is probably accountable for the large score. The game was stubbornly contested from start to finish, and was characterized by heavy slugging on both sides, with the advantage slightly in favor of the seniors. For the seniors Matthews pitched a good game and received better support than did Person for the sophomores.

Batteries: Matthews and Ruffin; Person, Sloan, Pinnix and Turlington; Umpire, Gaddy.

SAWBONES PLAY THIS AFTERNOON

Students of the two medical colleges of the city will line up against each other in baseball at Broad Street Park at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon. The game between the sawbones was announced for Saturday, but was postponed until to-day on account of the condition of the ground. Both teams are reported to be in good practice, and a lively match is expected. The following will be the line-up of the two teams:

University College—Dunford, catcher; Young, pitcher; White or Hall, first-base; Collier (captain), second-base; Cone, third-base; McDowell, shortstop; Gill, left-field; Hatcher, center-field; Taylor, right-field.

Medical College—Vaden, catcher; Dalton, pitcher; Simpson, first-base; Hoskins, second-base; Nye, third-base; Wallace, shortstop; Vanant, left-field; Smith, center-field; Rosebro, right-field. Substitutes: University College—Burnett, Byrd and Watson; Medical College—Scott and Brady.

SKI RECORD BROKEN

DULUTH, MINN., March 22.—John Evanson, of Duluth, broke the American ski record this afternoon, with a jump of 131 feet. The former record was 124 feet made by Evanson at Ishpeming, Mich., four years ago. Forfeiting of Duluth, jumped 135 feet, but fell. Four others distanced the former American record. The new mark is the most remarkable because the day was warm, and it was necessary to haul snow from nearby woods to prepare the slope for jumping.

Astor Wins Army Racquet Title.
LONDON, March 22.—Lieutenant John Astor, of the First Life Guards, captured the racquet championship of the army yesterday by defeating Captain Luther, of the Yorkshire Light Infantry. In the final the score stood 2 to 1. Lieutenant Astor is a son of William Waldorf Astor, and entered the British army in 1904.

BENNINGS MEET BEGINS TO-DAY; MANY VIRGINIA HORSES AT TRACK



SCENES AT BENNING RACE-TRACK.



WASHINGTON, MARCH 22.—All roads now lead to Benning. To-morrow this popular course will be the mecca of turfmen in the East. The followers of the turf who have been sojourning around New York, down South and in the far West will meet again, and the Eastern racing season of 1908 will be launched. If indications can be relied upon, the Washington Jockey Club will have the most successful meeting in its history. Stable men have been at a premium for the past two weeks and when the curtain rises the grounds will hold the largest number of horses ever quartered there.

Horsemen who have been racing at the two tracks on the Pacific coast and at New Orleans have arrived, and for the past three or four days their seasoned ponies have been burning up the Benning track. The recent decision of Judge Stafford sustaining the "walk around" system of bookmaking as legal was all that was needed to bring down the New York turf early as Friday an increase in the floating population of Washington could be noticed, and last night the hotels and the avenue were thronged with the followers of the racing game. To-night the Cavanaugh special will arrive from New York, and, as every seat therein was reserved two days ago, fully 1,500 bookmakers, owners, jockeys and clerks will be added to the already big throng.

Superintendent Tom Strahan has everything in apple-pie order at the track, his large gang of assistants having gone over every foot of the ground to see that there was nothing amiss. Thursday's rain helped some, but the energetic superintendent was not satisfied to make the track well-nigh perfect. With clear skies from now until the sport is started to-morrow the track will be in first-class condition and the going almost lightning fast. The runners that are engaged to race in the early stakes and other events have been receiving daily preparation, and have

A CRACK OUT-FIELD ARTIST



SOCKS SEYBOLD.

he can run whenever he is let down. Garth had not arranged for a rider for the Fatherless gelding. He may have some trouble in getting a first-class lightweight, too.

Garth is satisfied with Handicapper Murphy's treatment of old Graziallo. That fast but erratic campaigner has three pounds less to carry to-morrow than he had last season when he ran Malacca to a head. Graziallo carried 110 pounds last spring.

Berkeley Has His Package.

Berkeley, the candidate of the Bever-wick stable for this year's first Benning, will have to be as much better than Malacca was last spring as his people seem to think him to have a chance. One hundred and sixteen pounds is stiff weight for a horse of Berkeley's quality in a race of three-

quarters of a mile. Although Berkeley was got by the sprinting stallion, Diomedes, he was never distinguished for early speed. His forte is running from behind in the homestretch, and horses of his kind like distances of ground.

Berkeley's stock is not as high as it was before the announcement of the weights. Murphy was exceptionally kind to Francis R. Hitchcock's Smoker, the winner of last season's juvenile stakes. A colt of the class discovered by that son of Yankee and Smoker last season would do well as a horse of three-quarters of a mile under 105 pounds. Last year Smoker held his own, when good, with the best second-year-olds.

The other events have filled well and with few scratches the card for to-morrow can be classed as almost first-class, from a Benning viewpoint. The open selling steeplechase has been shoved down into fifth place, instead of third, as heretofore, and there are enough good timber-toppers in the list to please the thousands of lovers of this sort of racing in this vicinity. The going in the infield is very good owing to Superintendent Strahan's foresight in keeping the horses off while the snow was soft, and as a result there should be few, if any, spills to mar the sport.

Twenty of Jockeys.

There will be no dearth of riders, as most of the regulars that rode in the east last season will be on hand, with a large addition in the boys that have come into the limelight during the winter. V. Powers, who will ride for August Belmont this season if his work is satisfactory, will receive his try-out here. Willie Shaw, one of the cleverest riders that ever sat on a horse, will make his reappearance with Tommy Burns after his sojourn on the other side of the Atlantic. Walter Miller, the "Marvelous," will hardly be here to-morrow, although he started East several days ago, but he will be on hand before the scene shifts to the Empire State. Walter will be accompanied by Gilbert, who showed such great skill at Oakland the past winter, and who is under contract to Thomas Williams to ride for the latter when Miller cannot make the required weight. "Puddin'" McDaniel, Sumter and other good boys who have been making good at New Orleans will also be here.

Grimeshaw, R. Wetell, Walsh and J. Rudolph.

Utility—Weldensaul.

NEW YORK, March 22.—Jacob Schaefer, the wizard of the green cloth and the shining ball, the father of the present game of billiards as played by the experts, died at his home in New York City to-day.

"I wonder," said the man who has held more championships than any other professional billiardist that ever lived, "how many persons there are in the world who really have an idea of the amount of hard mental and physical training that must be undergone to become a billiard champion. Sometimes I have thought that if, when I first began to play billiards in Cleveland with some success, I had known what I would have to go through, there would never have been a Jacob Schaefer champion."

"Can you imagine that I have spent almost half of my life with a billiard cue in my hand? Everybody knows how old I am, and I don't propose to say anything in regard to that, but, for instance, what would you think of playing around a billiard table twenty-five years in succession? Hard la-

and one other college only—probably Dartmouth. The supporters of this plan take the view that football should be put on a plane with rowing and that the football team, like the boat crew, should be trained and developed for not more than two or three contests.

At a conference last fall the New England college presidents, in answer to a request by President Eliot, voted in favor of curtailing the schedules of intercollegiate athletic contests. Following this action the Associated Press canvassed the faculty representatives on the athletic committees of the various New England colleges, and, with one or two exceptions, all favored the proposed plan. President George Harris and the athletic authorities of Amherst College are in favor of the plan, President Harris holding that a few

games are better for the scholarship and physical well being of the students than a long schedule or the embolism of contests altogether. Amherst's baseball schedule has already been cut to twenty games.

President M. H. Buckham, of the University of Vermont, favors the plan, but as the baseball games have already been made up, there will be no curtailment this spring, at least. Dartmouth, which has for the past few years trimmed her athletic schedules, will probably not be affected by any further curtailment. Acting President John M. Lord, believing that the present proportion of athletics is a necessary part of amusement to the college.

Dr. Frank H. Whittier, physical director at Bowdoin College, believes that Bowdoin's present sporting schedules are satisfactory.

THE ORIGIN OF THE GAME OF BASEBALL

PHILADELPHIA, March 22.—Baseball is original with America, according to a committee of old-timers, consisting of A. G. Mills, Morgan G. Bulkeley, N. E. Young, Alfred J. Reach and George Wright, to whom the matter was referred when the question arose through a controversy between A. G. Spalding and Henry Chadwick. The latter, who is the oldest writer of baseball in the country, contended that the American game was developed from the old English game of "Rounders," while Mr. Spalding claimed that baseball originated here in America.

Three of the members of the committee to which the matter was referred were ex-presidents of the National League of Baseball Clubs. Mr. Bulkeley was the first president, Mr. Mills the third and Mr. Young the fourth, and also the first secretary. Mr. Mills voiced the sentiment of the majority of the committee in an article which covered the ground very thoroughly.

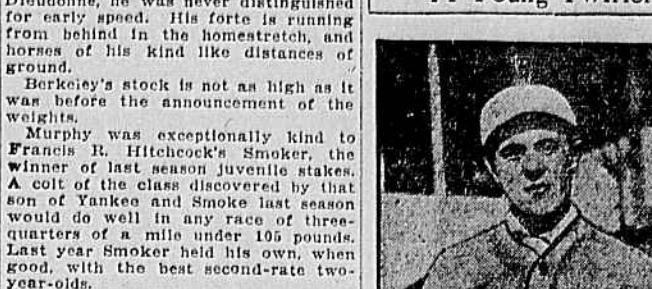
Mr. Mills says: "My belief had been that our national game of baseball originated with the Knickerbocker Club, organized in New York in 1845, which club published certain elementary rules in that year; but, in the interesting and pertinent testimony for

March 23d in the Annals of Sport.

1878—At San Francisco: Controller beat John Stewart in ten-mile trotting match, in harness, for purse of \$2,000.
1894—John D. Lloyd, a famous amateur cross-country runner, died at New York.

1900—At New York: Frank Erne defeated Joe Gans in twelve rounds.
1903—At Albany: Joe Gans won from Jack Bennett in five rounds.
1907—Seventh intercollegiate chess match by cable between the English universities, Oxford and Cambridge, and the American universities, Yale, Princeton, Harvard and Columbia, resulted in a draw.

A Young Twirler



MAXWELL.

Maxwell has already made a good impression on Connie Mack, and that native manager regards him as one of his most promising recruits.

NEW YORK, March 22.—The great-gathering of card players New York has ever seen is promised on June 21st, 22d and 23d, when the annual Skat Congress meets in this city. Five thousand players from various parts of the country are expected to participate for the hundreds of prizes which will be offered. In order to accommodate the large number of players expected, arrangements have been made to connect the club rooms of two of the largest clubs in New York, the Arion and the Loderbranz, by constructing a bridge of nearly a block, from one building to the other.

Herman Ridder and Judge Lorenz Zeller, who hold the executive committee, have appointed 150 business and professional men on the various committees that will have the congress in charge.

The North American Skat League has more than 3,000 members, and skat clubs are being organized in all the principal cities of the country.

OGDEN, UTAH, March 22.—The American car in the New York-to-Paris automobile race to-day crossed the line between Nevada and California, and entered on its run through Death Valley.

The Italian machine left Ogden shortly before noon to-day for the West, circling the north end of Great Salt Lake.

French car No. 1 passed Rawlins, Wyo., this afternoon, intending to run all night. The German auto reached Laramie, Wyo., this afternoon and will remain here to-night.

TRIES ROOSEVELT'S GRIP

HACKENSCHMIDT, Champion Wrestler, Says President Is a Wonderful Man.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 22.—Hackenschmidt, champion wrestler of the world, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, yesterday, when he was coming down the steps of the White House afterward the wrestler was beaming.

"Wonderful! Wonderful!" "Wonderful man! He has a grip like a vise."

The President spent some time conversing with Hackenschmidt. He told the wrestler that while Governor Roosevelt exercised with some good wrestlers for the purpose of keeping down weight, he was not a professional wrestler, from the fact that imaginative persons had borrowed tales of how he had broken the ribs and dislocated the shoulder blades of some of his opponents.

Hackenschmidt kept Mr. Roosevelt in laughter for several minutes with his recital of some of his experiences.

JAY GOULD BEATS THE PROFESSIONAL CHAMPION

TUXEDO PARK, N. Y., March 22.—Jay Gould, amateur court tennis champion of the United States and England, defeated E. Par. Latham, professional champion of the world, on the court of the Tuxedo Tennis and Racquet Club to-day by three sets to one in an exhibition match.

The victory was a brilliant one for Gould, because of the fact that Latham was said to be the best player in the world, former amateur champion of England, and three straight sets yesterday. Latham, who was the favorite, conceded fifteen in the first set, which was the first set at 6-4. The next three sets went to Gould by the one-sided score of 6-1, 6-2, 6-1. Gould was in fine form, playing an aggressive game, using his "railroad service" to great advantage, while Latham seemed fatigued.

TO FIGHT HORSE-RACING IN STATE OF LOUISIANA

NEW ORLEANS, La., March 22.—New Orleans papers announced to-day the beginning of a campaign to abolish horse racing in this State. The names of many well-known men of this city were printed as signers of a petition now being circulated for petition to the Legislature, which meets in May, to abolish betting at the Louisiana tracks. The question of the betting has been admitted to carry with it the existence of racing.

AMUSEMENTS

Academy—Dark.
Bijou—Arizona.

THEATREGOERS here are looking forward with interest to the appearance here of the Giffen Company at the Academy of Music Thursday, Friday and Saturday, with the usual matinee on Saturday.

Mr. Giffen has always been noted for his judgment in the selection of his companies, there can be little doubt of the success of the short engagement. Mr. Giffen says he will present this time the strongest and best balanced company he has ever yet chosen. The company includes Emmet Corrigan, W. E. Bonney, James T. Galloway, Herman L. Riney, Locke, Forrest Winant, Arthur Hurley, F. A. Laduke, Francis Nordstrom, Millicent Evans, Clara Spangler, Nelly Angell and Gladys Granger.

Funny Man Coming.

James T. Powers, in "The Blue Moon," will be the offering at the Academy to-morrow night and Wednesday, matinee and night.

The scenes of "The Blue Moon" are laid in British India. A local which gives great opportunity to the artist and costumer and the Messrs. Shubert have spared no expense in either direction to secure a beautiful and effective setting. The story is a pretty little tale of the happenings in a British regiment and is notable for the fact that it departs from the old-time plots of mistaken identity and depleted treasuries in the play. Mr. Powers, who has long been a favorite comedian, has a role that allows full play to his laugh-getting propensities, and those who are familiar with his work will easily understand that he keeps the audience in a roar the entire time he is on the stage.

Included in the cast will be Clara Palmer, Leslie Leigh, Nanon Jackson, Myrtle Cosgrove, Lucy Jane Johnson, Louise MacDonald, Paul H. Ryley, Robert Brodick, Edward Earle, May Sharpe, Frank Farrington, Blanche Wilcox, Jennie Prager, the toe dancer H. L. Griffith and a chorus recruited from among the handsomest girls to be found in stageland.

At the Bijou.

The popular American play, "Arizona," by August Thomas, will be the bill at the Bijou this week with a better cast than has ever before been seen here in a place at popular prices. The play is to be given here just as it was presented at the Academy last year at higher prices.